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trees and those common in cultivation in the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. The book is free from unnecessary technical terms and descriptive details which are essential to a comprehensive flora, so that the volume can be used easily and intelligently by the layman as well as profitably by the scientifically trained individual. Identification of a given tree is made by a simple key, based on leaf characters, leading directly to the species, which is illustrated by an outline drawing of a typical leaf associated usually with a reproduced photograph in halftone of the bark. Each tree is given its scientific name, as well as the common name by which it is known. The drawings are all made in actual proportions, the natural size being shown graphically by a line-scale accompanying each figure. We need more such books to encourage and popularize careful field observation.—J. M. GREENMAN.

Officinal plants and drugs.—MITLACHER⁵ has brought together in convenient compilation the plants recognized in all of the approved pharmacopoeias, 22 in number. The nomenclature is that of the Vienna Congress, and the sequence is that of WETTSTEIN'S *Handbuch*. The data given are as follows: geographical distribution and culture of medicinal plants, the vegetation form, the drugs obtained, those drugs regarded as especially strong and those recognized as "officinal" in different countries, etc. It is interesting to note the distribution of these 638 officinal plants, representing 125 families. Of the cryptogams, only 23 such plants are used (Phacophyceae 2, Rhodophyceae 7, Fungi 7, Pteridophytes 7), representing 16 families; while the gymnosperms add only 21 conifers. The 594 officinal plants among angiosperms, representing 107 families, are distributed as follows: Archichlamydeae 323, Sympetaleae 197, and Monocotyledons 74.—J. M. C.

Illinois Academy of Science.—The volume of transactions of the fifth annual meeting (February 1912) of the Illinois Academy of Science has just appeared. A symposium on conservation includes "Conservation of our forests," by HENRY C. COWLES, and "Conservation ideals in the improvement of plants," by H. J. WEBBER. In addition to these papers, the following of botanical interest were presented: "Notes on the forests of Ogle County, Ill.," by W. L. EIKENBERRY; "Competition and general relationships among the subterranean organs of marsh plants," by EARL E. SHERFF; "The range of evaporation and soil moisture in the oak-hickory forest association of Illinois," by WADE McNUTT and GEO. D. FULLER; and "Germination and growth of the cottonwood upon the sand dunes of Lake Michigan, near Chicago," by GEO. D. FULLER.—J. M. C.

Volvox.—An extended discussion of *Volvox*, based upon living and fixed material mounted whole in glycerin jelly, is presented in a pamphlet by JANET.⁶

⁵ MITLACHER, WILHELM, Die officinellen Pflanzen und Drogen. pp. viii+13. Wien: Carl Fromme. 1912. M 6.25.

⁶ JANET, CHARLES, Le *Volvox*. 8vo. pp. 151. figs. 15. Limoges: Ducourtieux et Gout. 1912.